

including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official rulemaking record is located at the Virginia address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:
opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comment and data will also be accepted on disks in Wordperfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number "OPP-00519." Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection,
Information collection requests.

Dated: February 19, 1998.

Susan H. Wayland,

*Acting Assistant Administrator for
Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.*
[FR Doc. 98-5256 Filed 3-3-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5973-6]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Superfund Site Evaluation and Hazard Ranking System

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following proposed and/or continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Site Evaluation and Hazard Ranking System, ICR #1488.04, OMB #2050-0005, expiration date 7/31/98. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy of this ICR, please contact Mary Ann Rich, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, (703) 603-8825 or by email: rich.maryann@epamail.epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Mary Ann Rich at (703) 603-8825, please refer to ICR #1488.04.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Title: Superfund Site Evaluation and Hazard Ranking System, EPA ICR #1488.04. This ICR requests renewal of a currently approved collection (OMB #2050-0005).

Abstract: Section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, 1980 and 1986) amends the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP) to include criteria prioritizing releases throughout the U.S. before undertaking remedial action at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. The Hazard Ranking System (HRS) is a model that is used to evaluate the relative threats to human health and the environment posed by actual or potential releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants. The HRS criteria take into account the population at risk, the hazard potential of the substances, as well as the potential for contamination of drinking water supplies, direct human contact, destruction of sensitive ecosystems, damage to natural resources affecting the human food chain, contamination of surface water used for recreation or potable water consumption, and contamination of ambient air.

Under this ICR the States will apply the HRS by identifying and classifying those releases that warrant further investigation. The HRS score is crucial since it is the primary mechanism used to determine whether a site is eligible to be included on the National Priorities List (NPL). Only sites on the NPL are eligible for Superfund-financed remedial actions.

HRS scores are derived from the sources described in this information collection, including field reconnaissance, taking samples at the site, and reviewing available reports and documents. States record the collected information on HRS documentation worksheets and include this in the supporting reference package. States then send the package to the EPA region for a completeness and accuracy review, and the Region then sends it to EPA Headquarters for a final quality

assurance review. If the site scores above the NPL designated cutoff value, and if it meets the other criteria for listing, it is then eligible to be proposed on the NPL.

Burden Statement: Depending on the number and type of activities performed, burden for the collection of site assessment information is estimated to range from 15 to 3,325 hours per site. The number of hours required to assess a particular site depends on how far a site progresses through the site assessment process. Sites where only a pre-CERCLIS screening action is performed will typically require approximately 15 hours, while sites that progress to NPL listing based on an integrated assessment approach may require up to 3,325 hours. The burden estimates include reporting activities and minimal recordkeeping activities. The States are reimbursed 100% of their costs, except for record maintenance. The ICR does not impose burden for HRS activities on local governments or private businesses.

Respondents: State agencies performing Superfund site evaluation activities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50 States.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 226,000 hours.

Frequency of Collection: One time; section 116(b) requires an HRS evaluation within four years of the site's entry into the EPA CERCLIS database.

Dated: February 24, 1998.

Larry G. Reed,

Acting Director, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response.

[FR Doc. 98-5556 Filed 3-3-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5973-2]

Continuing Planning Process for the State of Delaware

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability for public review and comment of the continuing planning process (CPP) for the State of Delaware.

SUMMARY: The Clean Water Act (the Act) at section 303(e), and EPA's implementing regulation at 40 CFR 130.5, requires that each State shall establish and maintain a continuing planning process (CPP) consistent with the Act. Each State is responsible for managing its water quality program to